

- 1.** An apparatus comprising:  
a receiver for receiving a first frame via a shared-communications channel; and  
a processor for generating a second frame that comprises both a data payload and  
an acknowledgement of the receipt of said first frame.
- 2.** The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said processor is also for encrypting at least  
one bit of said second frame.
- 3.** The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a transmitter for transmitting said  
second frame via said shared-communications channel.
- 4.** The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said receiver and said transmitter are IEEE  
802.11 compliant.
- 5.** The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a host interface for receiving said  
data payload from a host computer.
- 6.** The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said second frame also comprises a poll.
- 7.** The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first frame comprises an acknowledgement  
of the receipt of a third frame.
- 8.** An apparatus comprising:  
(i) a first station for:  
    (a) transmitting a first frame comprising a first poll to a second station; and  
    (b) transmitting a second frame comprising a first acknowledgement and a  
        second poll to said second station, wherein said second frame is available  
        before a third frame is transmitted; and  
(ii) said second station for:  
    (a) generating said third frame comprising a data payload and a second  
        acknowledgement before said transmitting of said first frame; and  
    (b) transmitting said third frame to said first station wherein said third frame  
        is available before said transmitting of said second frame.
- 9.** The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising encrypting at least one bit of said  
third frame before said transmitting of said first frame.
- 10.** The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising a host computer for generating said  
data payload.

**11.** The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said first station is at least one of an access point, a point coordinator, and a hybrid coordinator.

**12.** A method comprising:  
generating a first frame comprising a data payload and an acknowledgement; and  
receiving via a shared-communications channel a second frame after said  
generating;  
wherein said acknowledgement is intended as a response to said second frame.

**13.** The method of claim 12 further comprising encrypting at least one bit of said first frame before said receiving.

**14.** The method of claim 12 further comprising transmitting via said shared-communications channel said first frame after said receiving.

**15.** The method of claim 14 wherein said receiving and said transmitting are in accordance with an IEEE 802.11 protocol.

**16.** The method of claim 12 wherein said first frame also comprises a poll.

**17.** The method of claim 12 wherein said second frame comprises an acknowledgement.

**18.** A method comprising:  
generating a first frame comprising a data payload and a first acknowledgement before said transmitting of a second frame;  
transmitting a second frame comprising a first poll from a first station to a second station;  
transmitting said first frame from said second station to said first station; and  
transmitting a third frame comprising a second acknowledgement and a second poll from said first station to said second station wherein said third frame is available before said transmitting of said first frame.

**19.** The method of claim 18 further comprising encrypting at least one bit of said second frame before said transmitting of said second frame.

**20.** The method of claim 18 wherein said transmitting is in accordance with an IEEE 802.11 protocol over a shared-communications channel.

**21.** The method of claim 18 further comprising transferring said data payload from a host computer to said second station.

**22.** The method of claim 18 wherein said second frame also comprises data.